PLASTIC MAN AND STARMAN
STARRING IN
ADVENTURE COMICS
NO. 473 JULY 40¢ ALL NEW!
APPROVED BY THE COMICS CODE AUTHORITY
PLAS RIDES THE ROLLER-COASTER TO CHAOS!
THE SOLAR SENTINEL IS TRAPPED... 'TWIXT HAMMER AND ANVIL!
ANORU & GIORDANO

THE DINGO KIDS MEET O.J. SIMPSON
IT'S O.J. SIMPSON BREAKING OFF TACKLE! HE'S AT THE 40, THE 30. HE'S GOING ALL THE WAY. IT'S A TOUCH DOWN!
LATER ... IN THE LOCKER ROOM
WOW! O.J. SIMPSON! LET'S GET HIS AUTOGRAPH!
AW, A SUPERSTAR LIKE HIM WOULDN'T NOTICE US...
HEY! WITH THOSE DINGO BOOTS, YOU GUYS LOOK LIKE SUPERSTARS!
O.J.! HOW'D YOU KNOW WE WERE WEARING DINGO'S?
MAN, IT'S EASY! NOBODY PUTS LEATHER TOGETHER LIKE DINGO! I WEAR DINGO'S MYSELF!
YOU WEAR DINGO'S, O.J.!
SURE! I'VE GOT TO PUT SOMETHING SPECIAL ON MY FEET AFTER A GREAT GAME.
HEY, O.J. HOW ABOUT AN AUTOGRAPH?
FOR THE DINGO KIDS? YOU BET!
O.J. Dingo
KIDS! GET YOUR FREE AUTOGRAPHED PHOTO OF ME, O.J.! MAIL TO "O.J. DINGO", P.O. BOX 749, CLARKSVILLE, TENN. 37040.
NAME
ADDRESS
CITY
STATE
ZIP
dingo
O.J. Simpson
Best wishes!

ACME BOOT COMPANY, INC., P.O. BOX 749, CLARKSVILLE, TENNESSEE 37040 A SUBSIDIARY OF NORTHWEST INDUSTRIES, INC. OR CALL TOLL FREE 800-251-1382 (EXCEPT IN TENN.)

HE WAS SIMPLY "EEL" O'BRIEN, A COMMON CRIMINAL -- UNTIL A REMARKABLE ACCIDENT GAVE HIM A NEW LEASE ON LIFE, TRANSFORMING HIM INTO THE SHAPE-SHIFTING SUPER-SLEUTH CALLED...
PLASTIC MAN
CREATED BY: JACK COLE
SHARPEN YOUR PENCILS, KIDDIES, IT'S TIME FOR A SPOT-QUIZ!
QUESTION #1: WHY IS THE MAN NAMED LONGBROW HOLDING A GUN ON WOOLLY WHINGE AND HIS NEAREST FRIEND, BOXING KANGAROO-TRAINER GIGANETTA BLOCH?
QUESTION #2: WHO ARE THE GANGSTER LAWYERS WHO HAVE TIED OUR IRRE-PRESSIBLE SHAPE-SHIFTING SLEUTH TO THEIR OFFICE FURNITURE?
QUESTION #3: WHY ARE THEY ABOUT TO TURN HIM INTO SOMETHING WITH ABOUT THE SAME CONSISTENCY AS A GRILLED CHEESE SANDWICH??
WHAT'S THAT? YOU KNOW THE ANSWERS?? GOODIE FOR YOU! GIVE YOURSELF AN AUTOMATIC A!
IF YOU DON'T...THE ANSWERS BEGIN ON PAGE TWO -- BUT PEEKING AHEAD WOULD BE CHEATING, WOULDN'T IT?
SO? GO CHEAT ALREADY!...
MARTIN PASKO: Writer
JOE STATON and BOB SMITH: Artists
GLYNIS WEIN: Colorist
JOHN COSTANZA: Letterer
LEN WEIN: Editor

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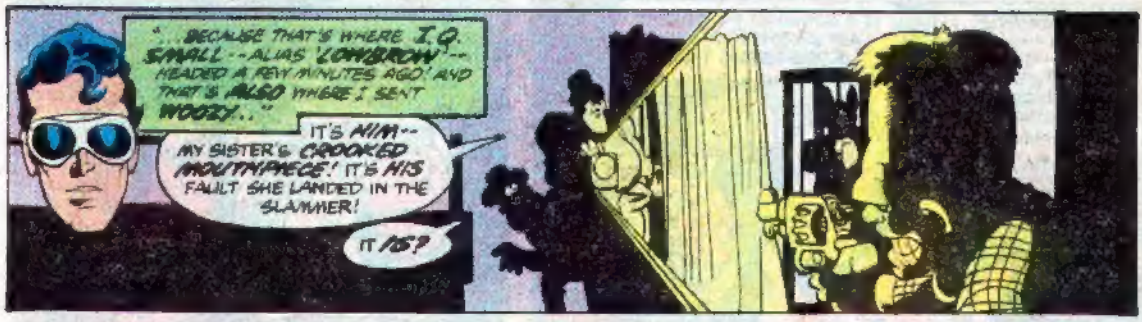
A MrBC Scan!

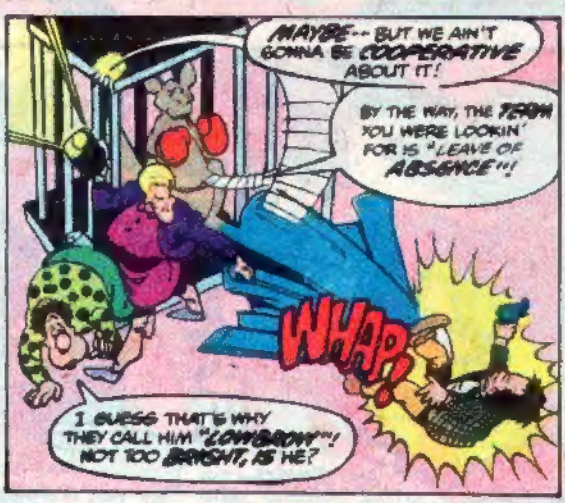
OUR "QUESTION-ANSWERING" BEGINS IN THE OFFICES OF MAX LARSESSE AND G. HAPWELL ("HAPPY") MEDEAN--TWO LESS-THAN-ETHICAL ATTORNEYS--
--WHICH IS A FAIR ASSUMPTION SINCE THEY'RE PRESENTLY CONTEMPLATING MURDER!...
PUT AWAY YOUR GUN, MAX! BULLETS ARE USELESS AGAINST THIS FLEXIBLE FLAT-FOOT--THEY ONLY BOUNCE OFF!
BUT THEY CALL HIM PLASTIC MAN, RIGHT? WELL, PLASTIC BURNS...!
DOES IT EVER! GOTTA THINK FAST IF I WANT TO AMOUNT TO ANYTHING LOOKING LIKE A THREAD AT A DRAG RACE--!
I'VE GOT TO GET FREE... TO FOIL THESE CREEPS! PARTNER--I.Q. SMALL--FOR MURDERING POOR CANDY BLOCH!
IF ONLY MY NOGGIN WOULD CLEAR SO I CAN CONCENTRATE--!
I MAY BE RUBBERY, BUT I CAN STILL FEEL A PUNCH
...AND THE BEANING I TOOK FROM THESE GUYS* HAS LEFT ME A LITTLE WOOZY--!
* LAST ISSUE!--LEN.
AND SPEAKING OF WOOZY (THE SIDEKICK, NOT THE CONDITION)...
YEAH, I'M GRANETTA BLOCH! YOU'RE PLASTIC MAN'S PARTNER, AIN'TCHA? ; SNIFF!;
YEP--AND PLAS ASKED ME TO DELIVER THIS TO YA, MA'AM... YOUR LATE SISTER CINDY'S PERSONAL EFFECTS!
CHIEF BRANNER--PLASTIC MAN'S BOSS--TOLD ME ; CHOKE! MY BIG SIS DIED IN PRISON!
AN' DAT'S WHEN YOUSE CAME TO MY OFFICE, FIGURIN' TA GET EVEN WIT' ME, AYGNT, GRANETTA?...
KLIK!
...'CAUSE YOUSE FIGURED I OFFED YER SISTER! WELL, I FIGURE YOUSE HAS BEEN DOIN' TOO MUCH FIGURIN'!
DAT'S WHY I'VE DECIDED YOUSE IS GONNA HAVE A LITTLE... "ACCIDENT"!
AHEY! EVERYTHING IS GONE BLACK...!?
2

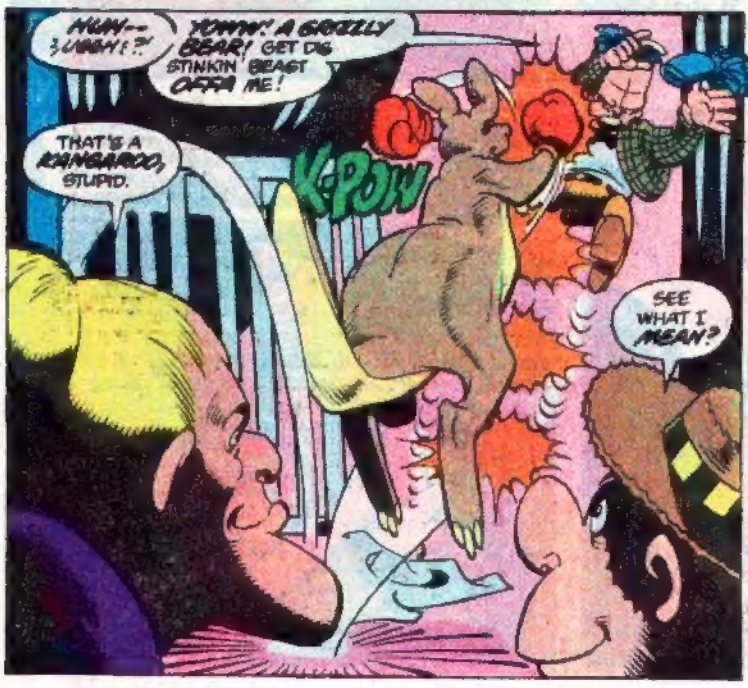
MEANWHILE...
WAIT-- THAT WATER COOLER OVER THERE MAY BE MY TICKET OUT OF THIS MESS!
IT'S GOING TO TAKE EVERY LAST OUNCE OF MY STRENGTH, THOUGH...
...TO PULL THAT DESK CHAIR TOWARD THE COOLER AND KNOCK IT OVER--!
SSSSST!
BLIMP!
CRASSHH!!
ZIP!
THUB!
AND BINGO-- THE LITTLE "FIREBUG" GETS KNOCKED OUT... AND HIS "TORCH" IS EXTINGUISHED-- SIMULTANEOUSLY!
BOY, IF RUBE GOLDBERG COULD SEE ME NOW--!
CAN'T REST ON MY LAURELS, THOUGH-- THERE'S ANOTHER SHYSTER TO BE DEALT WITH!
BAFF!
LOOKS LIKE THE ONLY ONES RESTING AROUND HERE ARE FAT AND HAPPY!
AND I HOPE IT'S A LONG REST-- LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO UNTIE MYSELF AND GET OVER TO THE PALINDROME AMUSEMENT PARK...
3


"...BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE I.Q. SMALL--ALIAS 'LOMBROW'--HEADED A FEW MINUTES AGO! AND THAT'S ALSO WHERE I SENT WOOZY..."
IT'S HIM--MY SISTER'S CROOKED MOUTHPIECE! IT'S HIS FAULT SHE LANDED IN THE SLAMMER!
IT IS?

YEAH--THIS WEASEL DREAMED UP THE BLACKMAIL SCHEME THAT MY SISTER WAS ARRESTED FOR! SHE TOLD ME ALL ABOUT IT!
NO WONDER HE SNEAKED INTA THE JAIL AND KILLED HER BY POISONIN' HER DINNER, GRANETTA!
TICKETS
GRANETTA BLOCH and her BOXING KANGAROOS

I THOUGHT HE KILLED HER! WHAT MAKES YOU THINK SO?
PLAS AN' ME SAW HIM AT THE JAIL--DISGUISED AS A MATRON!
WHICH IS WHY YOUSE BOTH IS TAKIN' A PERMANENT LEAVE-OF-ABSTINENCE FROM LIFE!
AGAIN, LAST REGALE! --LEN.


MAYBE--BUT WE AIN'T GONNA BE COOPERATIVE ABOUT IT!
BY THE WAY, THE TERM YOU WERE LOOKIN' FOR IS "LEAVE OF ABSENCE"!!
WHAP!
I GUESS THAT'S WHY THEY CALL HIM "LOMBROW"! NOT TOO BRIGHT, IS HE?



MEANWHILE...
GOOD THING I CAN GIVE MYSELF "SEVEN-LEAGUE STRIDES" WHEN I NEED TO!
OTHERWISE, I'D STILL BE STUCK IN TRAFFIC BACK IN THE CITY NOW!

CONTINUED ON PAGE FOLLOWING

GUMFIGHTING DO'S AND DON'TS.

Hubba Bubba

The first thing to do—pick the right chew: Hubba Bubba.® The soft and juicy bubble gum with amazing no-stick bubbles.™ Then proceed with this simple yet effective gumfight drill: (1) Begin blowing bubble. Note Hubba Bubba's incredibly large bubble. (2) When the Hubba Bubba bubble breaks do not be alarmed. (3) Simply remove Hubba Bubba from your face. That's right, simply remove and replace in mouth. Return to step 1. Repeat drill ten times.

THE PROPER STANCE.

Gumfighter's hat (optional)
Hubba Bubba bubble should be facing opponent
Keep elbows akimbo (bent)
90°
Note soft, juicy and delicious Hubba Bubba close at hand.
Knees slightly bent forward
Feet planted firmly on ground

Geographic availability may vary.

YOUR SIZE IS NOT IMPORTANT.

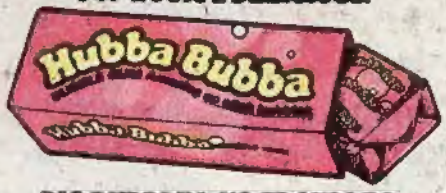
The size of your bubble is. And that means choosing the right bubble gum —Hubba Bubba. Because when it comes to great, big, fat bubbles, nothing sizes up to a Hubba Bubba bubble.

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTES.

This boy did. And now instead of wearing a smile, he's wearing a paper bag over the bubble gum stuck to his face. Definitely not soft and juicy Hubba Bubba Bubble Gum. Does Hubba Bubba really work? Absolutely! Hubba Bubba is gumfighter tested and approved.

So pick up a pack of Hubba Bubba in original or mint flavor. Enjoy that soft, juicy, delicious taste. Plus those great, big Hubba Bubba bubbles that won't stick to your face.

SOFT. JUICY. DELICIOUS.



BIG BUBBLES, NO TROUBLES.

The "Juice" says...

O.J. Simpson

"SHOW THEM YOUR HEELS"

O.J. Simpson and 9 other Pros recommend the new Spot-bilt® "Autograph" to put you out in front!

Show them your heels in any turf sport. The New Spot-bilt "Autograph" multi-purpose shoe is light, fast and tough. Great for soccer, baseball or football. And why not? You're wearing athletic shoes recommended by the Spot-bilt Advisory Staff of O.J. Simpson and 9 other Super Pros.

Special cleat placement on these shoes gives you the ultimate in ankle and knee protection. You also get 75 years of Spot-bilt athletic shoe experience in every pair.

Look for "Autographs," the newest addition to the fine line of Spot-bilt athletic footwear, at your sporting goods dealer. Then, get out on the field and show them your heels!

Spot-bilt... the extra step when you're on the spot!

Spot-bilt®

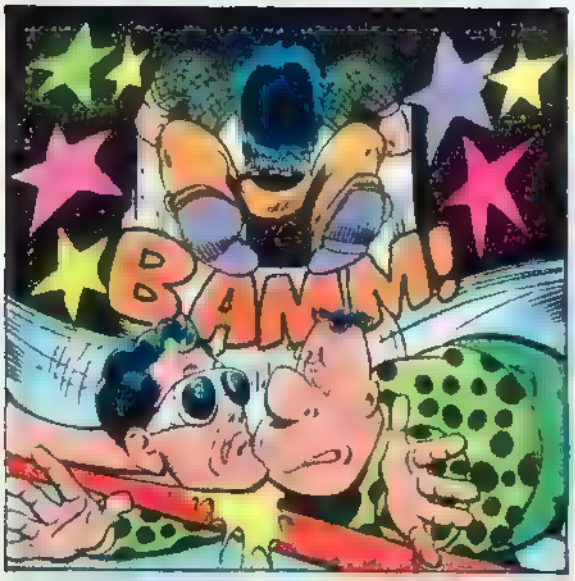
the extra step when you're on the spot.

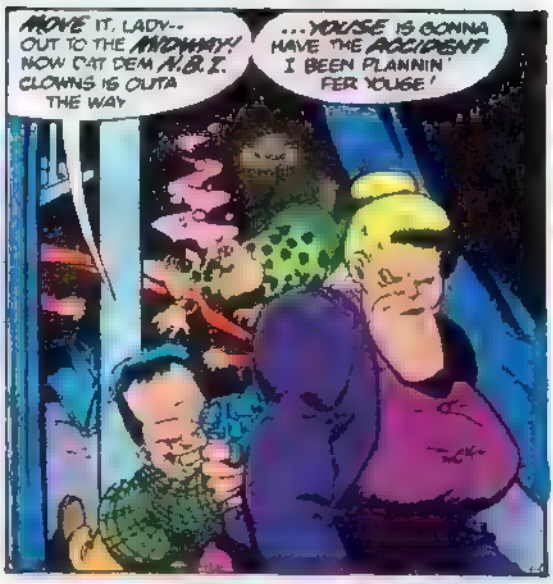
FREE SPOT-BILT POSTER OFFER... SEE YOUR SPORTING GOODS DEALER!

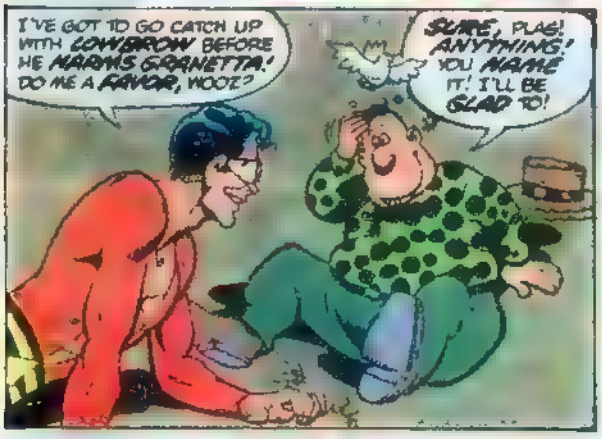
You get a 2' X 3' poster ($3.00 value) showing your favorite Spot-bilt Pro in action FREE when you buy a pair of Spot-bilt Autograph shoes. Look for the special coupon inside the package or ask your sporting goods dealer for details.

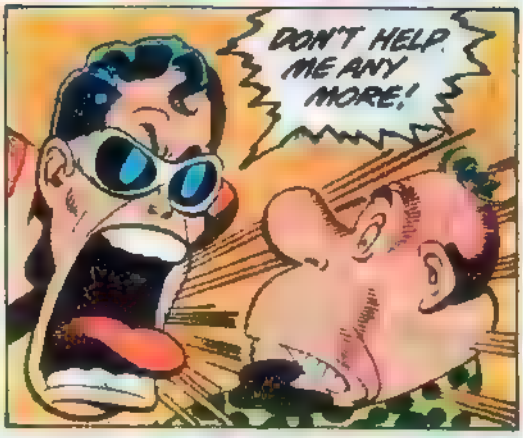
BEAR...KANGAROO...I DON'T CARE WHAT IT IS! IF IT'S LIVIN', IT CAN GET KILT...
...AN' AS LONG AS I GOT ME MY "TOOL-KIT," I AIM TO KILL IT!
WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT, LAME-BRAIN!
BAFF!
OH, YEAH? LET'S SEE IF DIG ANIMAL CAN OUTMANEUVER A SWITCH-BLADE--HUH?!
I GUESS IT CAIN...
CHOMP!
YAHHH!
BLASTED CRITTER THINKS HE'S SMART...
...WELL, NOT EVEN MUHAMMAD WHAT'S-HIS-NAME'S FANCY FOOTWORK CAN SIDE-STEP A TOMMY-GUN--!
SOCK!
UH... THEN AGAIN, MUHAMMAD WHAT'S-HIS-NAME DON'T GOT NO TANK--!

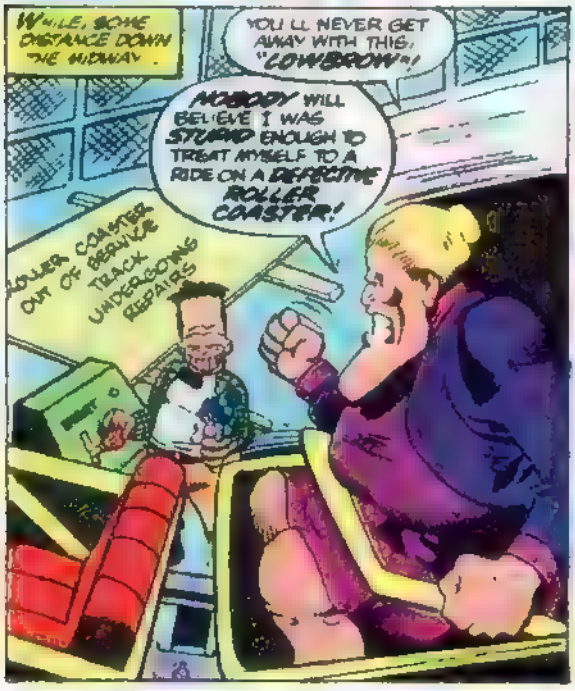
THERE'S GOTTA BE SOMETHINKS IN DERE DAT'LL DO THE TRICK...
A-HA! A BOOMERANG!
YIPE!
LOOKS LIKE LOWBROW FINALLY FOUND A WEAPON THAT SCARED OFF HIS "SQUIRRIN' PARTNER"! MUSTA BEEN A AUSTRALIAN KANGAROO!
MOST KANGAROOS ARE WOOZY.
OKAY, YOUSE TWO-- RUN-'N'-GAMES TIME IS OVER!
OH, I DON'T KNOW ABOUT THAT, "LOWBROW" --FOR ME, IT'S ONLY BEGINNING!
PLASTIC MA--?! UNNH!!
BETTER GET THAT TOMMY-GUN AWAY FROM HIM BEFORE HE CAN RECOVER IT!
?!
RIGHT--AN' I'LL CONFISCATE HIS "TOOL-KIT"!


BAMM!


MOVE IT, LADY-- OUT TO THE MIDWAY! NOW DAT DEM A.B.I. CLOWNS IS OUTA THE WAY
...YOUSE IS GONNA HAVE THE ACCIDENT I BEEN PLANNIN' FER YOUSE!


I'VE GOT TO GO CATCH UP WITH LOWBROW BEFORE HE MARRIES SGANETTA! DO ME A FAVOR, WOOZ?
SURE, PLAG! ANYTHING! YOU NAME IT! I'LL BE GLAD TO!


DON'T HELP ME ANY MORE!


WHILE, SOME DISTANCE DOWN THE MIDWAY...
YOU'LL NEVER GET AWAY WITH THIS, "LOWBROW"!
NOBODY WILL BELIEVE I WAS STUPID ENOUGH TO TREAT MYSELF TO A RIDE ON A DEFECTIVE ROLLER COASTER!
ROLLER COASTER OUT OF SERVICE TRACK UNDERGOING REPAIRS

MAYBE NOT-- BUT DEY'LL HAVE A TOUGH TIME PROVIN' DAT I DID IT IF DEY DON'T CATCH ME RED-FOOTED!
RED-HANDED.
WHATEVER.

EEEEEEEEE
THAT SCREAM--! IT'S GRANETTA! SOUNDS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM THAT ROLLER COASTER UP AHEAD--!
THIS IS IT!--THE BIG FADE-OUT! I CAN'T BEAR TO LOOK!
AAUUGGHH! LIFE IS TOO CRUEL! I'M TOO YOUNG TO DIE! I HAVEN'T SEEN MAMA IN THE SPRING YET..
I'VE NEVER DROOLED.. NEVER ROLFED--!
HECK, I EVEN FORGOT TO FEED THE KANGAROOS
RELAX, GRANETTA-- YOUR REFLEXES ARE STILL A LITTLE PRE-MATURE!
AFTER ALL, I WOULDN'T WANT YOUR KANGA-ROOS TO GO HUNGRY--!
NUH--?!
PLASTIC MAN! THANK HEAVENS!
BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE KNOCKED OUT--!
WHO, ME? NAW-- JUST DUMPED HEADS WITH WOODY IS ALL! AND JUST BETWEEN YOU AND ME-- HIS HEAD'S A BIT ON THE SOFT SIDE!
YEAH, WELL, HE DOES KINDA CREATE THAT IMPRESSION!
UH-OH, PLAS-- LOOK! OL' I.Q. SMALL'S TAKIN' IT ON THE LAM!

CONCLUDED ON 3rd PAGE FOLLOWING

THE FLASH™
A FLASH IN THE DAM
THE DESTROYER WILL BLAST THE DAM TO PIECES... UNLESS I GET THERE FIRST.
I WANT EVERYBODY TO BE MISERABLE AND UNHAPPY LIKE ME. THEY WILL BE WHEN I DESTROY THE DOOVER DAM!
WHOOOPS. THE DESTROYER STARTED WITHOUT ME... BUT I'M HERE NOW!
YOU FORGOT TO INCLUDE ME IN YOUR PLANS, DESTROYER.
THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, DESTROYER, IS YOU'VE NEVER LEARNED TO ENJOY THE LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE....
WHY, THESE ARE HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES. MMM... THIS LIGHT, GOLDEN SPONGE CAKE AND CREAMED FILLING.
YOU WIN, FLASH. I'LL GIVE MYSELF UP! THERE IS A LOT OF HAPPINESS IN HOSTESS TWINKIES CAKES.
twinkies
twinkies
YOU GET A BIG DELIGHT IN EVERY BITE OF HOSTESS® TWINKIES® CAKES
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THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING FOR THE ALL-NEW Wonder Woman!

THREE SENSATIONAL ISSUES THAT WILL CHANGE THE LIFE OF THE AMAZING AMAZON PRINCESS FOREVER!

THIS IS THE END—AND THE BEGINNING—FOR
40¢
THE ALL-NEW
Wonder Woman
I'VE HAD MY FILL OF THE EVILS OF MAN'S WORLD!
AS OF NOW—I QUIT!
ON SALE MAY 8TH
ON SALE APRIL 10TH
NOW THERE'S A PARADISE ISLAND!
ON SALE JUNE 12TH

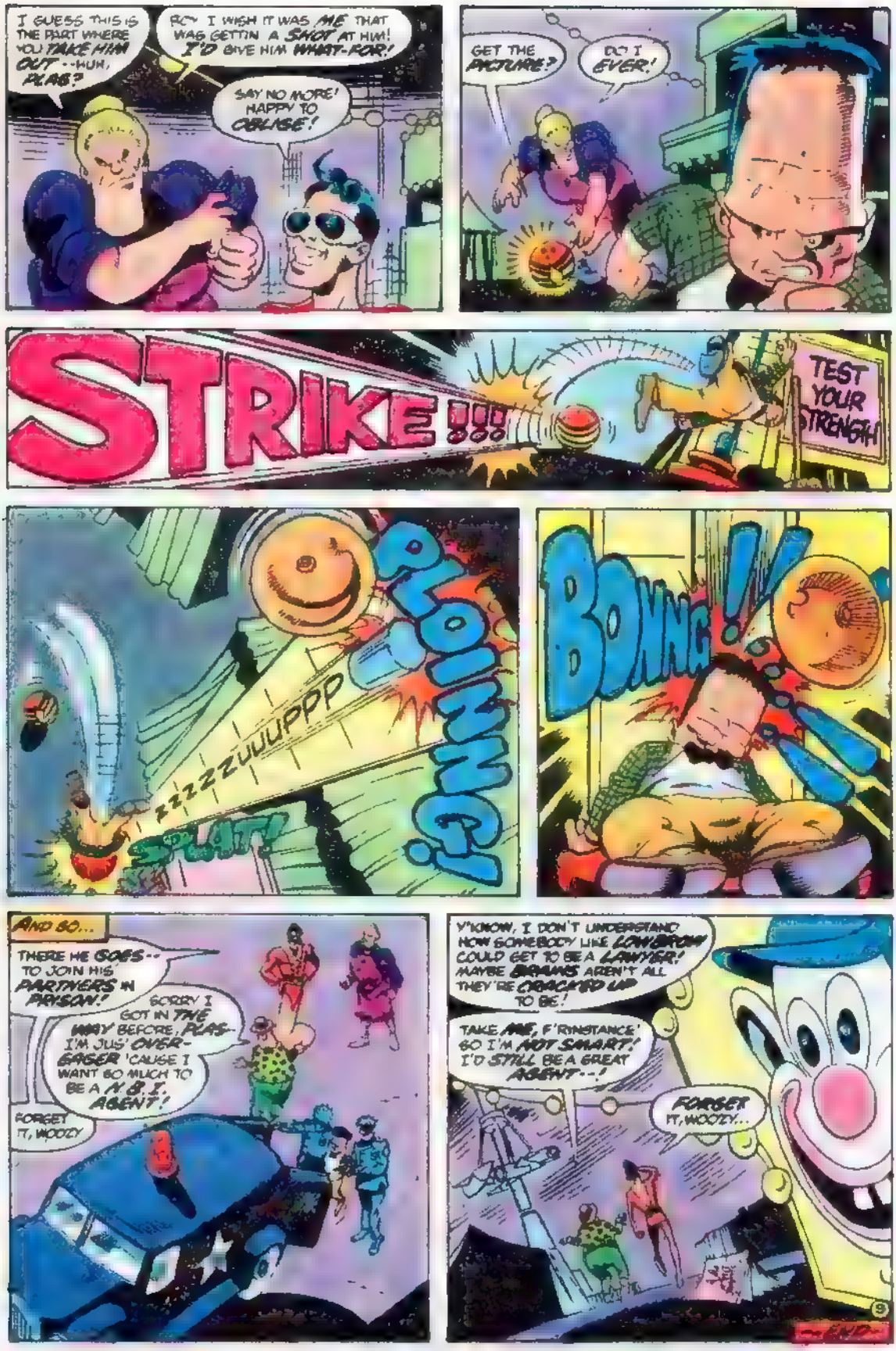
FEATURING COMICDOM'S [illegible]

AN EPIC ADVENTURE YOU'LL NEVER FORGET!

AND AS IF THAT ISN'T ENOUGH, HERE COMES the HUNTRESS! IN HER OWN MONTHLY SERIES!

DC WHERE THE ACTION KEEPS ON COMING!

TM and © DC COMICS INC. 1980


I GUESS THIS IS THE PART WHERE YOU TAKE HIM OUT--HUH, PLAS?
BOY I WISH IT WAS ME THAT WAS GETTIN A SHOT AT HIM! I'D GIVE HIM WHAT-FOR!
SAY NO MORE! HAPPY TO OBLIGE!
GET THE PICTURE?
DO I EVER!
STRIKE!!!
TEST YOUR STRENGTH
ZZZZZUUUPPP
SPLAT!
PLOINNG!
BONNG!!
AND SO...
THERE HE GOES--TO JOIN HIS PARTNERS IN PRISON!
SORRY I GOT IN THE WAY BEFORE, PLAS-I'M JUS' OVER-EAGER 'CAUSE I WANT SO MUCH TO BE A N.S.I. AGENT!
FORGET IT, WOODY
Y'KNOW, I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW SOMEBODY LIKE LOWBROW COULD GET TO BE A LAWYER! MAYBE BRAINS AREN'T ALL THEY'RE CRACKED UP TO BE!
TAKE ME, F'RINSTANCE! SO I'M NOT SMART! I'D STILL BE A GREAT AGENT--!
FORGET IT, WOODY...
--END--

DATELINE: ADVENTURE

L-535

Len and Ross.

ADVENTURE has turned from a mediocre Dollar Comic into an excellent 40¢ title. Both Plastic Man and Starman are expellent series. I give you thanks and appreciation.

Starman, done by Levitz and Ditko, is interesting science fiction, but unlike the beautifully stereotyped Adam Strange, Starman is a cross between science fiction and super-heroism. Though I've seen the basic plot before, Starman has been done believably. Hopefully, this series will continue in ADVENTURE for a long time. Maybe his own comic would be in order, too.

The superior feature of the book is Plastic Man, a great break from the Batman, Superman or Flash stories we're used to. Plastic Man takes all the subtlety of the super-hero and turns it upside-down, and then flaunts it. Plas is the consummate hero, the villain, a real villain, not someone you can sympathize with, but really loathe/enjoy. Woozy Winks is usually lost between the two extremes. Plas' disguises are usually hilariously obvious, but fortunately for the name of justice, all go unnoticed. I'd like to see Plas continue in ADVENTURE, because giving him his own book will just send him into limbo again.

In conclusion, keep doing what you're doing.

Dan Anderson
328 E. Park Street
Marquette, MI 49855

We're trying, Dan, and we're glad you feel we're succeeding. You might be interested to note that Starman is appearing in ADVENTURE as Adam Strange's replacement—our original two-feature concept having included Earth's first spaceman.

• • • • •

Everyone concerned,

To be honest when I heard *ADVENTURE* was going to become a monthly again, with new features, I wasn't too happy. I, like many others, didn't like the idea that you were planning to replace Deadman and the Justice Society with Plastic Man and Starman. I mean Deadman is one of the few strips that exist without a super-hero and the Justice Society represents the greatest heroes of the past and the newest heroes. So what do you go and do, you replace them with a concept that has only worked once (Plastic Man was only a success when done by Jack Cole), and another concept that has never worked before. Is it a wonder I'm slightly pitted?

I decided to buy the issue anyhow. Wein/Staton/Smith seem to be Jack Cole reincarnated. You've combined the sublime (considering the time of Plastic Man's origin, it doesn't seem too ridiculous) and the ridiculous (what does D.I.P. stand for?). Comparing this issue to the references to Plas in "All In Color For A Dime" (I think that was the book, one of the few good things about the local library), this feature has a future.

Starman is going to be great! Paul Levitz has created the galactic super-hero needed! We've seen the 'team' science fiction/fantasy stories with Marvel's STAR WARS, and BATTLESTAR GALACTICA and I think it is good that DC decided not to copy these stories. Better to be original than to have to worry about doing a similar type of story better. About the art: Ditko/Tanghal make the greatest team. Steve Ditko has always been one of the greatest sci-fi artist, only being held back by his lack of the third dimension in his figures. They seemed stiff and hard. I wrote 'seemed' because Romeo Tanghal is the perfect inker for Ditko, he leaves the fantasy and takes out the stiffness. I want to see where this fits in with the rest of the DC Continuity.

Don't think all this praise means I'm willing to accept any apologies you might give for cancelling Justice Society and Deadman, because I'm not. Please, Paul, Len, and any other editor reading this, use the Justice Society and Deadman somewhere, anywhere! Meanwhile, I'll keep reading *ADVENTURE*, and (against my nature) enjoying it.

Mike Sopp
438 W. 32 St.
Erie, PA 16508

Deadman appears in next month's DC COMICS PRESENTS, in a special story that continues where the ADVENTURE storyline left off...and with yet another beautiful Jose Luis Garcia Lopez job illustrating ye editor's script.

P.S. "D.I.P." stands for "Demands, Ignored, Per sonally"...like we're doing with your question!

• • • • •

Dear Editor,

Uh oh! No sooner does Plastic Man make his bow in ADVENTURE than a crisis situation occurs.

Can Plas stand the transition from Len Wein's brand of light-hearted lunacy to the more straight-laced style of Martin Pasko?

Jeffrey Lowndes
909 Sunset St.
Scranton, PA 18509

Anyone who had ever read Marty's METAL MEN-versus-giant babies comics would know the answer to that already...the rest of you just had to wait for this issue! Marty's doing a wonderful and whacky job, and the only reason he won't be doing next issue's Plas tale is he's busy becoming a successful tv writer.

• • • • •

Dear People,

I will say right off that I really enjoyed ADVENTURE in its Dollar Comic format. It had a superb selection of my favorite characters as done by some of the best talents at DC. When it reverted to a standard format I was despondent. Now, after two issues I find that I actually am not desperate for the return of Deadman or the JSA.

The Plastic Man was never one of my favorite characters but I find his strip in here to be an enjoyable romp. Len Wein is turning out lightly humorous, action-filled scripts and is managing to hold my interest for longer than anyone ever has with Plas. In addition to that, I feel that Joe Staton and Bob Smith are the perfect art team for the strip, turning out a unique synthesis of Joe's often cartoonish pencils and Bob's solid inks.

Starman is truly an excellent strip. I'm amazed that I'm enjoying the strip as much as I am. After all, he looked rather dull-looking when I first saw him, he sounded rather contrived and I never really cared for Steve Ditko's art. Somehow he is turning out good. Romeo Tanghal does a beautiful job of finishing off Steve's pencils and the character looks better every time I see him. As for the stories, I feel that Paul Levitz has rarely done better. I think the best thing I can say about the strip is that it reminds me of the Manhunter from DETECTIVE.

Here's hoping for a long run of Starman and Plastic Man stories.

Jon Green
415 Shelter Rd.
Ronkonkoma, NY 11779

• • • • •

NEXT MONTH: Plastic Man takes on not one, not two, but three new super-villains: Acid-Tongue, Blind Alley, and The Skunk, as Marv Wolfman joins forces with Joe Staton and Bob Smith. And hard as it is to believe after that litany of villainy, Starman's in the issue also, trapped with the Empress on a prison planet, courtesy of Paul Levitz, Steve Ditko and Romeo Tanghal.

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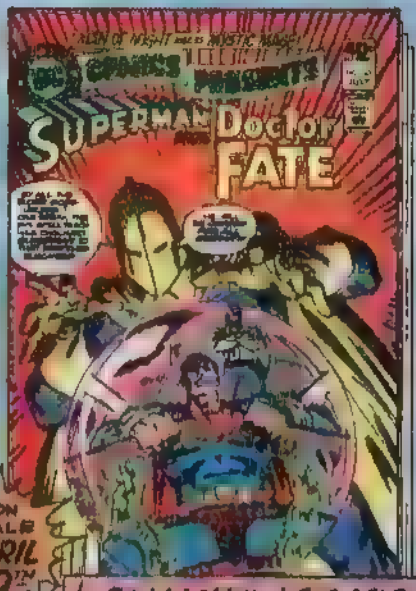

ON SALE APRIL 10TH

by DENNY O'NEIL & JOE STATON

ON SALE MAY 8TH

by LEN WEIN & J.L. GARCIA-LOPEZ

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The Legend of the BATMAN Continues...

THE CONCLUDING ISSUES OF AN EPIC OF EXTRAORDINARY EXCITEMENT!

THE COLLECTOR'S ITEM OF 1980

by Len Wein & Jim Aparo

ON SALE MAY 22ND

ON SALE JUNE 26TH

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HERE'S A RUMOR TO IMPERIAL SECURITY--AN ELUSIVE ENEMY TO THOSE WHO WOULD DISTURB THE ALLEGIANCE OF PEACE AND KNOWN ONLY TO ALL: HE BEARS A PERPETUAL DEATH SENTENCE UNDER THE MASK OF
STARMAN
...IT'S THIS SIMPLE, EMPRESS; THAT'S ONE OF YOUR IMPERIAL FLEETS OUT THERE--
--AND IT'S ABOUT TO BLOW US TO BITS!
B-BUT THEY WOULDN'T HARM ME...
THEY THINK YOU'RE DEAD, REMEMBER-- KILLED BY THE ALIENS WE STOLE THIS MINI-SHIP FROM.
CAN'T YOU DO SOMETHING, STARMAN? YOU'VE SAVED ME ONCE ALREADY, BUT THAT WON'T MATTER... UNLESS...
AGREED--IT'S DOUBLE OR NOTHING, YOUR MAJESTY--
--BUT I WONDER IF YOU WOULD HAVE ASKED SO QUICKLY, DEAR CLARYSSA, IF YOU KNEW THAT YOUR LIFE IS ALL THAT STANDS BETWEEN ME AND THE THRONE!
CONSIDER: BEHIND THEM, A HOSTILE ALIEN CRAFT; BEFORE THEM, A FLOTILLA OF WARSHIPS COMMITTED TO THEIR DOOM. THOUGH ONE IS THE EMPRESS OF A HUNDRED WORLDS, AND THE OTHER THE MOST DANGEROUS MAN IN THE GALAXY, CAN EVEN THEY HOPE TO SURVIVE...
TWIXT HAMMER AND ANVIL!
PAUL LEVITZ WRITER/CREATOR / STEVE DITKO PENCILLER/DESIGNER / ROMEO TANGHAL INKER/EMBELLISHER / TODD LETTERS / ADRIENNE COLORS / LEW WEIN EDITOR

IT'S ALMOST FUNNY--THEY'RE TRYING TO BLAST US TO AVENGE CLRYSSA, AND I'M TRYING TO KEEP HER ALIVE!
BUT THOUGH I'M ABSORBING THEIR RADIATION BLASTS, THERE'S GOT TO BE A LIMIT TO WHAT EVEN I CAN TAKE--
--AND IF THE PAIN I'M FEELING IS ANY CLUE, I'M OVER-DOSING ALREADY!
IT'S THAT MYSTERIOUS STARMAN, ADMIRAL--APPARENTLY HE'S PROTECTING THE ALIENS!
STRANGE... BUT THEN EVERYTHING WE'VE HEARD ABOUT HIM HAS BEEN STRANGE... HASN'T IT, ENSIGN?
HE SEEMS TO BE BLOCKING OUR BEAMS SOMEHOW... AS THOUGH HE'S IMMUNE TO THEM.
DIRECT THE ORDNANCE OFFICER TO DOUBLE THE INTENSITY!
AYE, SIR AND MASTER!
AHEEEH!
UHHH... IT'S NO USE. I'VE NEVER HAD TO FACE THIS MUCH FIREPOWER BEFORE! I SIMPLY CAN'T TAKE IT!
ALL I CAN DO NOW IS TRY TO GET US OUT OF HERE BEFORE WE'RE FRIED!
ONLY ONE CHANCE TO DO THAT--IF THE FLEET CAN'T SEE WHERE WE'RE GOING!
2

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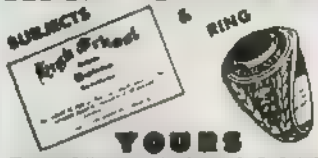

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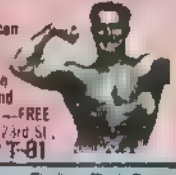

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ARROSH! THAT LIGHT--!
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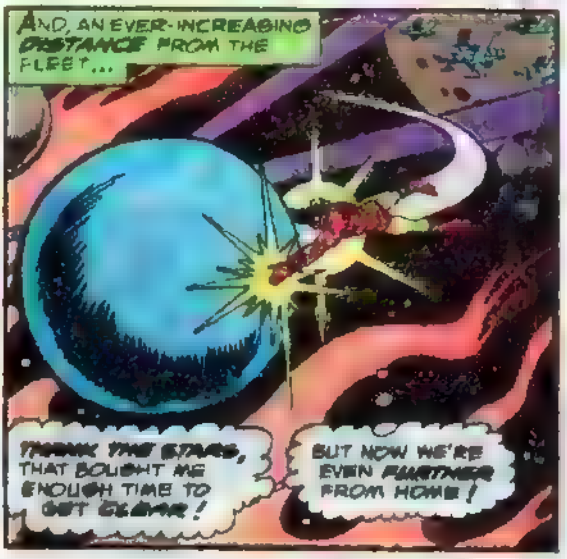
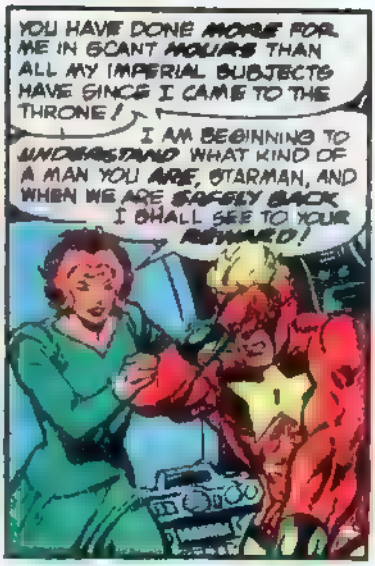
--IT'S AS IF HE'S THROWN ALL OUR RADIATION BACK AT US, ADMIRAL--
--BUT CONCENTRATED ON THE WAVELENGTHS WE USE FOR OUR MONITOR FUNCTIONS! EVERY CIRCUIT'S SHORTED!

EVERY SHIP IN THE FLEET'S GONE BLIND!
I DON'T KNOW HOW HE DID IT BUT STARMAN WILL PAY FOR THIS!
BY HEAVEN, HE'LL PAY!


AND, AN EVER-INCREASING DISTANCE FROM THE FLEET...
THANK THE STARS, THAT BOUGHT ME ENOUGH TIME TO GET CLEAR!
BUT NOW WE'RE EVEN FURTHER FROM HOME!

I DID MY BEST, EMPRESS, BUT...
DON'T BELITTLE YOURSELF, STARMAN--YOU SAVED ME ONCE AGAIN. I SAW IT ALL ON THE MONITOR.


YOU HAVE DONE MORE FOR ME IN SCANT HOURS THAN ALL MY IMPERIAL SUBJECTS HAVE SINCE I CAME TO THE THRONE!
I AM BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT KIND OF A MAN YOU ARE, STARMAN, AND WHEN WE ARE SAFELY BACK I SHALL SEE TO YOUR REWARD!

FOR EVEN AN EMPRESS IS STILL...A WOMAN!
BY THE HEAVENS--NO!
CLARISSA DOESN'T REALIZE SHE'S FALLING IN LOVE WITH HER OWN BROTHER!

WHILE FAR ACROSS THE VOID, A SMALL CRUISER SOARS TOWARDS A LANDING ON THE IMPERIAL THRONEWORLD...
...WITH A VERY SPECIAL CARGO...
...THE LADY MERRIA, RECENTLY ADOPTED AS THE FIRST MEMBER OF THE EMPRESS' NEW IMPERIAL FAMILY...
THERE YOU ARE, YOUR LADYSHIP, THE PALACE GARDENS--AND WITH SCARCELY A FLOWER SCORCHED!
I CAN SEE WHY STARMAN DEPENDS ON YOU SO, JEDIAH RIKANE.
I'M ONLY GLAD HE ALLOWED ME TO ESCORT YOU, LADY...
...CONSIDERING THE WAY HE FEELS ABOUT YOU, IT'S A WONDER HE LETS ANY MAN EVEN SPEAK TO YOU!
COMMODORE--LOOK! IT'S THE LADY MERRIA!
INDEED! WELCOME HOME, LADY... WE HAD FEARED NEVER TO HEAR YOUR GENTLE VOICE AGAIN. THE COUNCIL WOULD GREET YOU...
...AND I WOULD SPEAK WITH YOU AT LENGTH, JEDIAH, AND LEARN WHY YOU DESERTED MY IMPERIAL SECURITY SECTION SO MYSTERIOUSLY!
WHAT--? OFF ME, BLAST YOU!
COMMODORE RYCMEN, YOU OVERSTEP YOURSELF!
IN THE EMPRESS CLRYSSA'S ABSENCE, I AM SENIOR PEER OF THE REALM, AND YOU WILL GET YOUR TOADS' HANDS OFF JEDIAH--NOW!
HE IS UNDER MY PROTECTION!
AH, DEAR LADY, BUT MY CHARGE COMES FROM THE COUNCIL OF REGENCY FORMED ON THE PRESUMPTION YOU AND HER MAJESTY WERE BOTH DEAD!
YOU KNOW FULL WELL THEIR ORDERS ARE AS IF FROM THE ONYX THRONE ITSELF.
BUT IF YOU WOULD SPEAK WITH THEM... WELL...
...MY IMPERIAL SECURITY SECTION WOULD BE THE LAST MEN IN THE EMPIRE TO STOP YOU.
4

AND OUT OF RANGE OF A PROBING WARFLEET..
HAD TO COME OUT HERE... THAT SCENE WITH CLRYSSA WAS JUST TOO MUCH TO HANDLE.
I MEAN, OKAY, SO SHE THINKS HER BROTHER GAVYN IS DEAD, DUMPED INTO SPACE TO KEEP HIM FROM BECOMING A RIVAL FOR THE THRONE...
...BUT HOW CAN SHE NOT RECOGNIZE ME WHEN SHE'S SPENDING EVERY SECOND CHECKING OUT MY BODY?
SOMETIMES HUMANS SEE WHAT THEY WISH TO SEE, LAD...
HAVE YOU NOT FOUND THAT TRUE?
MN'TORR! I'M CERTAINLY SEEING WHAT I WANT TO SEE RIGHT NOW!
HOWEVER YOUR APPEARING AND DISAPPEARING ACT WORKS, BOOK SEATS FOR TWO PASSENGERS THIS FLIGHT!
YOU'RE MY TICKET FOR TAKING CLRYSSA HOME!
NO, LAD, THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS WRITTEN!
I HAVE MERELY COME TO HELP YOU DEAL WITH... THAT!
IT'S THE GIANT ALIEN SHIP I STOLE THIS COMPARTMENT FROM! THEY'VE COME TO GET CLRYSSA BACK!
HOLD THE FORT, MN'TORR. I'LL SEE IF I CAN CONVINCE THEM THAT'S A BAD IDEA!

CONSIDERING THE SIZE OF THAT SHIP, THIS IS PROBABLY A FUTILE GESTURE, BUT WHAT THE HECK--
KLIPP!
--AT LEAST IT MAKES ME FEEL LIKE I'M DOING SOMETHING!
WHUMP
YEOW! SO MUCH FOR FEELING BETTER!
HMM--THE ALIEN SHIP MOVED AS THOUGH IT WAS ALIVE, AND NOT MECHANICAL!
BUT THAT CAN'T BE...
HEY! WHAT'S HAPPENING!?
THAT'S WHAT I WANT TO KNOW! BUT THIS--THIS CREATURE MERELY CALLED ITSELF MN'TORR, AND WENT INTO THAT WEIRD TRANCE!
HE'S A FRIEND, EMPRESS--MAYBE THE BEST--!
KBLAMP
THE SHIP--IT'S MADE CONTACT!
STARMAN--LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING COMING THROUGH THE WALL WHERE THE ALIEN SHIP TOUCHED US!
NOT MUCH OF A PROBLEM, EMPRESS! THEY'RE JUST SO MUCH METAL, AFTER ALL--
--AND METAL MELTS!

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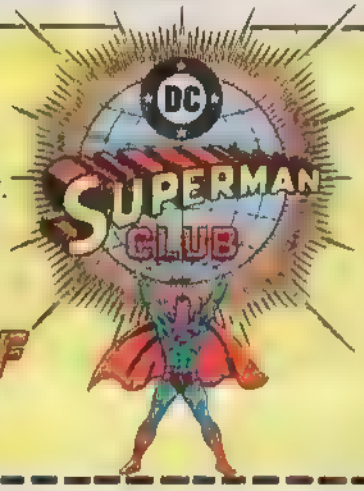

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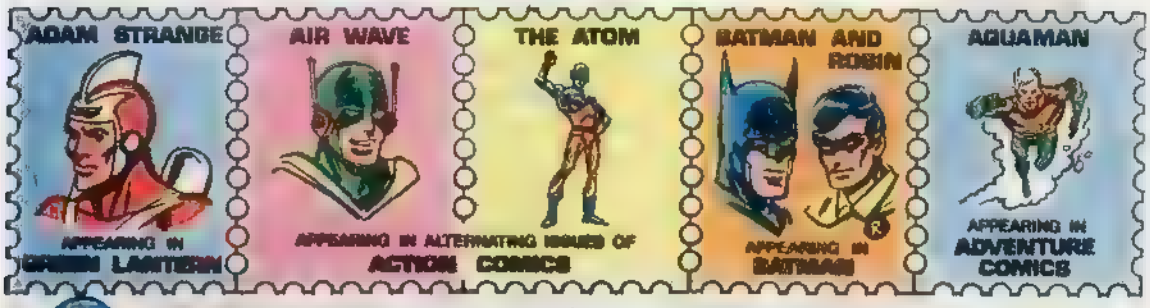

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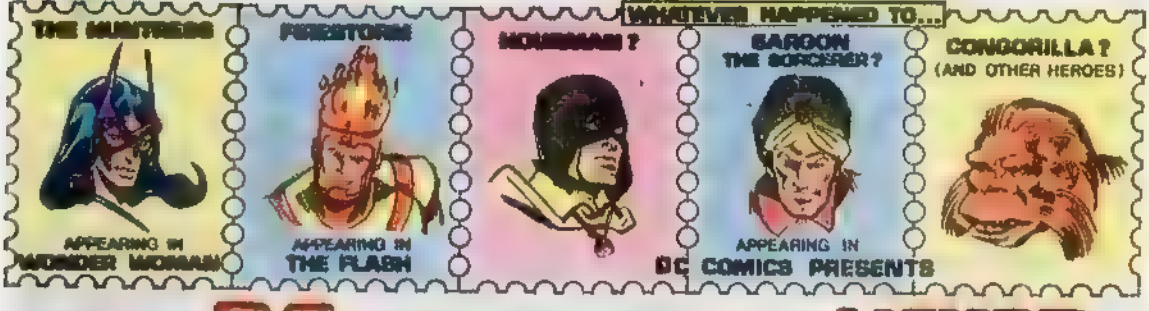
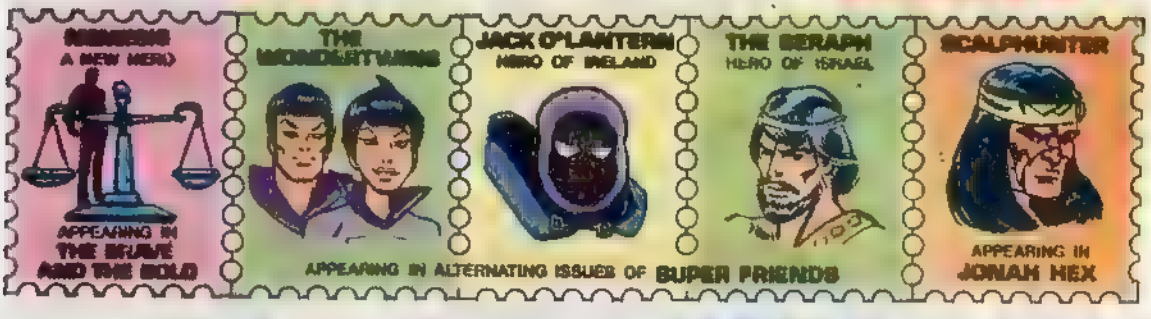


THESE DC STARS CAN'T BE LICKED...


NEMESIS A NEW HERO
APPEARING IN THE BRAVE AND THE BOLD
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THE SERAPH HERO OF ISRAEL
APPEARING IN ALTERNATING ISSUES OF SUPER FRIENDS
SCALPHUNTER
APPEARING IN JONAH HEX

...BUT YOU'RE BOUND TO BE STUCK ON THEM!

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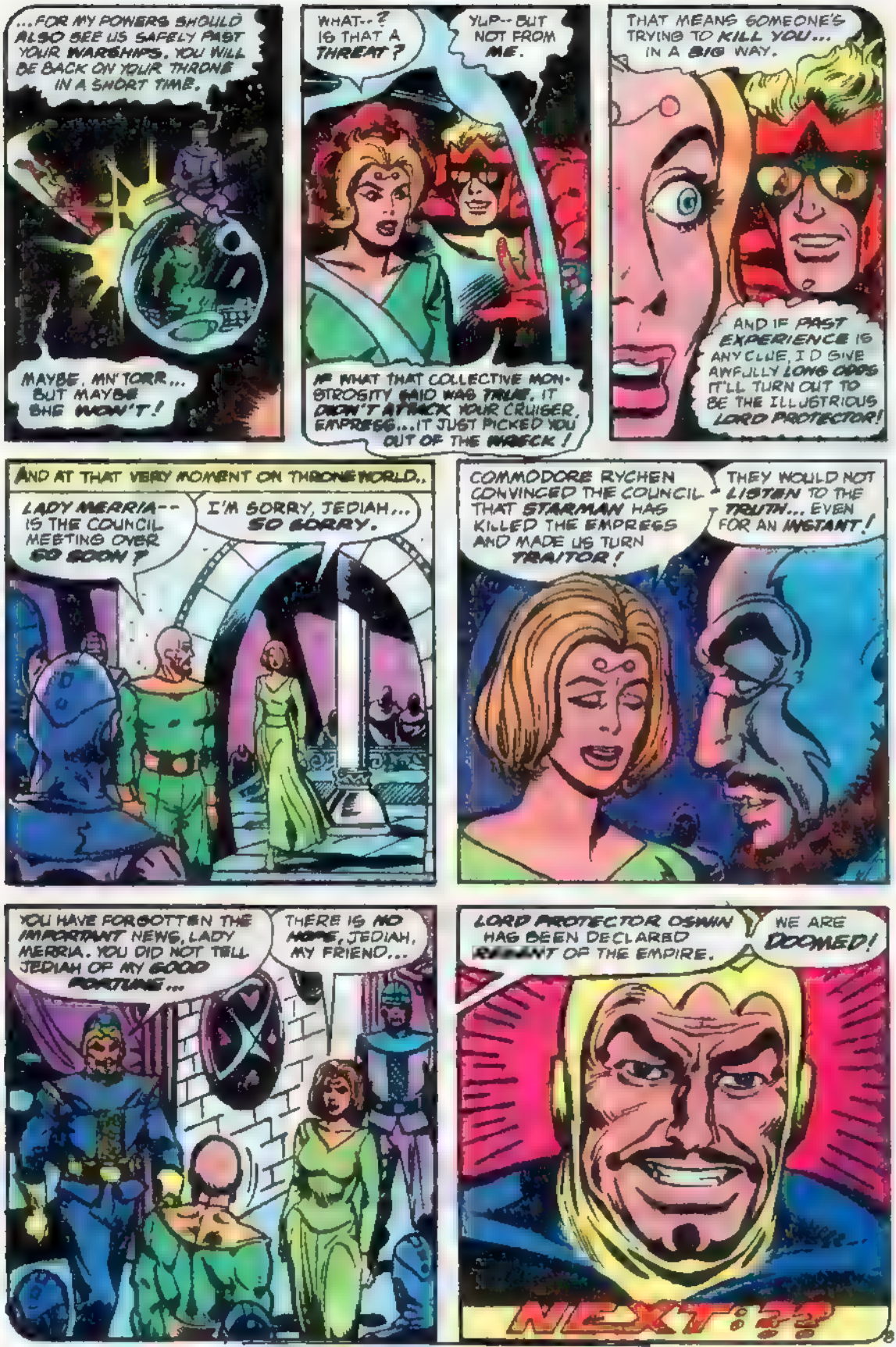
THAT'S ENOUGH TIN SOLDIERING FOR TODAY, BOYS!
GIVE WHOEVER IS RUNNING THIS SHIP OF HORRORS A MESSAGE FOR ME:
TELL THEM WE'RE GOING HOME... OR THEIR SHIP IS GOING TO BE FULL OF SCORCHED CIRCUITRY!
ENOUGH--THE POINT HAS BEEN MADE, STARMAN!
HUNH--? BUT HOW HOW DO YOU KNOW, MN'TORR? WHERE ARE THE ALIENS?
THEY ARE ALL ABOUT YOU, LAD, ALTHOUGH YOU SAW THEM NOT--AND THEY WERE BLIND TO YOU.
IN TRUTH, BOTH OF YOU THOUGHT THE OTHERS WERE NOT TRULY THINKING BEINGS!
IT IS TRUE, YOU WHO CALL YOURSELF BY SO MANY NAMES, I/WE THOUGHT YOU LESSER CREATURES BECAUSE YOU HAD NO SENSE OF "ALL".
HUNH--THE SHIP IS... TALKING!
EACH OF THE CUBES OF THE SHIP IS A CELL, LAD--IN THE TRUE BIOLOGICAL SENSE OF THE WORD. TOGETHER THE CELLS SHARE LIFE--EVEN INTELLIGENCE!
I/WE HAD TO SEARCH OUT MY/OUR PORTION IN WHICH YOU ESCAPED, FOR ME/US TO BE COMPLETE ONCE MORE!
I/WE HAD THOUGHT TO GIVE SANCTUARY TO THAT PORTION OF YOU I/WE ORIGINALLY CHANCED UPON*... I/WE MEANT NO ILL!
IF YOU WOULD JOURNEY ON WITHOUT ME/US, I/WE WILL HELP YOU FREELY... ONLY NO PART OF ME/US CAN JOIN YOUR TRAVELS.
*EMPRESS CLRYSSA LAST ISSUE.--LEN
SHORTLY, AFTER THE ALIEN INTELLIGENCE HAS PROVIDED MATERIAL FOR STARMAN TO USE AS A PROTECTIVE BUBBLE FOR THE EMPRESS...
WE'RE FREE OF THEM..I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
YOU SHOULD...


...FOR MY POWERS SHOULD ALSO SEE US SAFELY PAST YOUR WARSHIPS. YOU WILL BE BACK ON YOUR THRONE IN A SHORT TIME.
MAYBE, MM'TORR... BUT MAYBE SHE WON'T!
WHAT--? IS THAT A THREAT?
YUP--BUT NOT FROM ME.
AS WHAT THAT COLLECTIVE MONSTROSITY SAID WAS TRUE. IT DIDN'T ATTACK YOUR CRUISER, EMPRESS...IT JUST PICKED YOU OUT OF THE WRECK!
THAT MEANS SOMEONE'S TRYING TO KILL YOU... IN A BIG WAY.
AND IF PAST EXPERIENCE IS ANY CLUE, I'D GIVE AWFULLY LONG ODDS IT'LL TURN OUT TO BE THE ILLUSTRIOUS LORD PROTECTOR!
AND AT THAT VERY MOMENT ON THRONE WORLD..
LADY MERRIA--IS THE COUNCIL MEETING OVER SO SOON?
I'M SORRY, JEDIAH... SO SORRY.
COMMODORE RYCHEN CONVINCED THE COUNCIL THAT STARMAN HAS KILLED THE EMPRESS AND MADE US TURN TRAITOR!
THEY WOULD NOT LISTEN TO THE TRUTH... EVEN FOR AN INSTANT!
YOU HAVE FORGOTTEN THE IMPORTANT NEWS, LADY MERRIA. YOU DID NOT TELL JEDIAH OF MY GOOD FORTUNE...
THERE IS NO HOPE, JEDIAH, MY FRIEND...
LORD PROTECTOR OSWIN HAS BEEN DECLARED REGENT OF THE EMPIRE.
WE ARE DOOMED!
NEXT:??

NEXT ISSUE ON SALE THE FOURTH WEEK IN MAY

THE DC FEATURE PAGE

Q: How come all of *Superman*'s girl friends have the same initials, L.L.?—Gene Norris. *A*: Maybe because they're all Lovely Ladies.

Q: What kind of training did *Robin* go through?—Roland Jim Daniel. *A*: He was trained in athletic skills as well as detective work by *The Batman* and you can find out more about it by picking up our three-issue mini-series of *THE UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN*, now on sale.

Q: Did *Batman* ever catch his parents' killer?—Barron Shepherd. *A*: Yes, and we refer you to the answer immediately above.

Q: How about putting *Karate Kid* back in action?—Jeff Jones. *A*: Watch issues of *LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES*.

Q: Does *Green Lantern*'s power ring have a 24-hour limit?—Doug Hugo. *A*: Yes.

Q: Who was *Superman*'s first super-foe?—Unsigned. *A*: The *Ultra-Humanite*, who first appeared in *ACTION COMICS* #13.

Q: Will there ever be an issue where *Superman* accidentally kills Lois Lane and then retires?—Jeff Kew. *A*: I doubt it.

Q: How did *Black Lightning* get his power?—Yves Perreault. *A*: That's something even *BL* himself couldn't answer, but watch *DETECTIVE COMICS* for more info on it.

Q: Is *Plastic Man* blind?—Darren Thomas. *A*: No.

Q: Will *Batman* and *Hawkman* be teaming up?—David Duncanson. *A*: Yes, in *BRAVE & BOLD* #164.

Q: When did Dick Grayson get his driver's license?—Raymond Negron. *A*: When he was old enough to drive.

Q: Where was *Hawkman* born?—Andre Mareure. *A*: On the planet Thanagar.

Q: What *DC* hero has the most regular arch-enemies?—Gregory Patterson. *A*: *The Flash*.

Q: Is *Mon-El Superman*'s brother?—Alex Debnam. *A*: No.

Q: Why was *Captain Comet* a villain for awhile?—Kent Hutchinson. *A*: He was duped into battling *Green Lantern* by the *Secret Society of Super-Villains*, but he never had a career as a criminal.

Q: In comic book age, how old are *Superman* and *Batman*?—Bruce Belvin. *A*: Under thirty.

Q: Will any other members be leaving the *Justice League*?—Dennis Jay Butt. *A*: One's bowing out in an upcoming issue, but we don't want to ruin the surprise by telling you which one.

Q: Where did *Supergirl* get her costume?—Mark McMillen. *A*: The original one was modeled after *Superman*'s and made by her parents in Argo City.

Q: What Earth do the DC and Marvel characters live together on?—Bobby R. Eaves. *A*: Earth-8?

Q: How come Marty Pasko isn't writing so much for you any more?—Danny Golding. *A*: Marty's out in California, making his mark in TV and movie writing. An episode of BUCK ROGERS that he scripted appeared on NBC on January 10th.

Q: How did Bruce Wayne get so rich?—Joe Schafstall. *A*: Wise investments.

Q: How many questions do you get each day?—Simon Gallimore. *A*: It averages out to about 40 a week.

Q: How did *Green Lantern* meet Carol Ferris?—Christina Rohan. *A*: She was Hal (*GL*) Jordan's boss at Ferris Aircraft.

Q: How about the origin of *The Joker*?—Billy Cox. *A*: It's in the three-issue mini-series, *UNTOLD LEGEND OF THE BATMAN*, now on sale.

dc profiles number 62

* FRANK CHIARAMONTE *

Francisco "Frank" Chiaramonte came to DC Comics the long way around—from Havana, Cuba, by way of Venezuela, South America!

Born in Havana, Frank became interested in art as a child, attending such schools as the St. Alejandro Fine Art School and commercial art schools simultaneously. Quite an accomplishment especially when you consider that Frank was only eleven at the time!

From art school, he went to work in commercial art in his native Havana, preparing ads for newspapers and television. Frank was a big fan of American comic books—including, fittingly, *Superman*—until Fidel Castro came to power. Castro's regime allowed no American comics in the country, so Frank worked for a company that produced original comics for Cuba. In 1961, the political situation in Cuba forced Frank to spend some time in Venezuela, where he worked on animated films.

Finally, in 1962, Frank came to the United States. But he had no knowledge of the English language, and could find no work in his chosen field until 1967. But when his "dry spell" broke, Frank found himself working for the best—Will Eisner, creator of *The Spirit*. Frank assisted Eisner in producing *P.S. Magazine*, a monthly pamphlet on preventive service produced for the U.S. Army.

Frank worked for Eisner until 1971, when a fellow employee at Will Eisner Productions, Mike Ploog, introduced Frank to Marvel Comics. Frank worked as an inker on many features, and in 1973 he went to work for Murphy Anderson, who had taken over the assignment to produce *P.S.* for the Army.

In 1977, Frank began inking part-time for DC. Now he inks full-time for us, regularly applying his talented brush to *Superman* and *The Flash*. After many years as a Superman fan, Frank is now half of the art team that produces the Man of Steel! How does he feel about this? Says Frank: "I like it very much. Comics are genuine, American art. I was a great fan of comics when I was a kid, and I was surprised to see so many changes in them when I finally came to America. For instance, because Castro allowed no American comics, I had never seen Supergirl until I came to America."

But Frank, craftsman that he is, isn't 100% satisfied: "Everything today is very realistic; the comics today have lost a little of their charm."

If Frank Chiaramonte has anything to say about it, you can be sure he'll always be striving to put that elusive charm in his work. With the obstacles Frank's overcome so far, we wouldn't put *anything* past him! —Mike W. Barr

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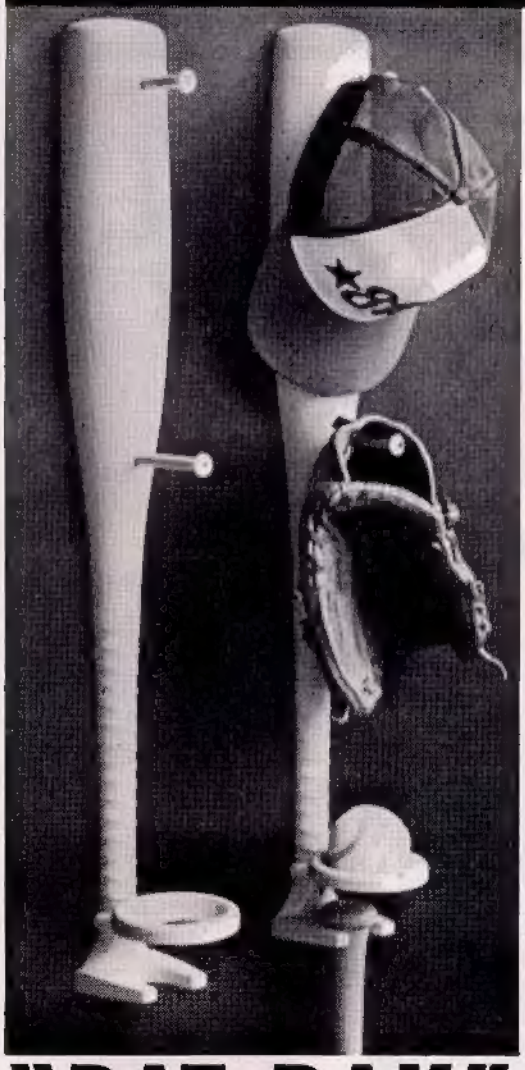

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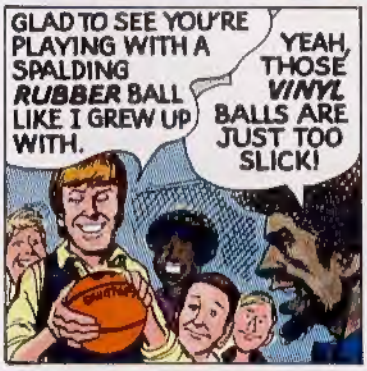

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